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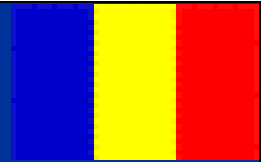
Romania

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Romania takes lead role in fighting human trafficking



Signing ceremony in the Hall of Honor at the MoAI. From left to right: Mr. Rodger Garner, Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative in Romania, and Mr. Ioan Rus, Minister of Administration and Interior.

On 3rd February 2004, at the Ministry of Administration and Interior, a tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Mr. Ioan Rus, Minister of Administration and Interior, Mr. Rodger Garner, Mission Director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Ms. Soknan Han Jung, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Romania Resident Representative. The document provides the framework for the establishment of a specialized unit within the MoAI to take over the mission of updating, disseminating and promoting the 'Law Enforcement Best Practice Manual', developed under a UNDP Romania project initiated in 2001.

Written for border police officers, specialized police units, and prosecutors, the Manual is a core element of a Comprehensive Law Enforcement Training Strategy that has been endorsed by 13 South-eastern European countries. The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) officially adopted it at a regional law enforcement senior officials meeting in Vienna last December, along with a manual issued by

the International Center for Migration Policy Development for general police. The regional anti-trafficking training strategy based on the two manuals is a worldwide best practice and will be implemented by UNODC in other regions as well.

Through the tri-partite Memorandum of Understanding signed today, UNDP transfers the project's equipment and know-how to the MoAI's specialized unit, who will carry on regular updates and promotion of the Manual to beneficiary countries. These countries are Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Serbia-Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, and Ukraine, as well as the UN Mission in Kosovo.

"I would like to congratulate all those who fully committed themselves to successfully finalize this project. This is a guarantee that we shall continue our cooperation with UNDP and USAID on future projects", said Minister Ioan Rus.

Rodger Garner, USAID Mission Director added, "Today we are witnesses to a pivotal moment in the battle against the trafficking of human beings. The Ministry of Administration and Interior has already made great progress in this fight. As the Manual's creation has demonstrated, solving the problem of trafficking and bringing relief to its many victims is possible only through cooperative efforts".

"Human trafficking is a multi-faceted challenge in our region. From a human rights perspective, trafficking is a modern form of slavery, unacceptable by any standards. It is not only an issue of trans-border crime, but it is a development challenge to our still fragile democratic societies. We are proud that through this project, Romania has taken a lead role in fighting human trafficking in the region", concluded Mrs. Soknan Han Jung, UNDP Resident Representative.

Major national media outlets covered the news conference that followed the signing ceremony.

For more information please contact UNDP Romania at governance@undp.ro



From left to right: Rodger Garner, USAID; Soknan Han Jung, UNDP; Cristina Boldur, UNDP; Michaela Grigoras, UNDP; Ioan Rus, MoAI; Dan Dionisie, UNDP; Corneliu Alexandru, MoAI and Mihai Toader, UNDP.